The Bible & Daily Living

God's true gift

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Lesson for December 18, 1983
Bible Study Passage: Isaiah 40:3-11

Introduction

Are you ready for Christmas? What kinds of preparations have you made? If you're like me you probably have much more to do in the way of gift-making and buying.

My "Santa's Workshop" officially opens around Thanksgiving and does not close until Christmas Eve! The making of gifts has also given me a sense of joy and personal satisfaction. I enjoy leaving my "tracks" in the homes of family and friends with my woodworking skills. It's also nice to look around my home and office and enjoy the handmade gifts. Such items are very meaningful to me.

In the midst of preparing and giving to others, I need to be open to receive gifts from others, and from God. I know God wants to bless me with a renewed appreciation for the gift of his Son, Jesus.

At Christmas it is easy to lose sight of that gift of all gifts because we happen to be too busy. Perhaps the best gift we can give ourselves is to take time to listen to God speak to us through this Christmas season. Hopefully, you and your family will be able to schedule family time to worship at home and at church. In those special times God can speak to you of his peace.

A Voice That Cries [Isaiah 40:1-5]

Isaiah was commissioned to be God's spokesperson to the children of Israel who were in exile. Isaiah brings to the exiles a message of comfort, that God is about to bring their suffering to an end. Isaiah reminds the people of Israel that the covenant relationship remains in spite of Israel's past sins.

This passage comes alive in Handel's Messiah. The passage itself describes a procession lead by a town crier. The good news of Isaiah was that the way home was in preparation. A new "highway" would be opened in order for the Lord's glory to be revealed. And every eye would witness this grand event.

The New Testament identifies this "voice" as John the Baptist. (Read Matthew 3:3) John was sent to "cry aloud" the coming of the Savior who would "take away the sin of the world."

Assurance of God's Word [Isaiah 40:6-8]

Isaiah prophecied for a long time concerning the sins of the people and the Lord's anger. What else could he possibly say to a people who had heard it all? It is no doubt that Israel's failure to heed the Lord's commandments was enough to depress anyone, including Isaiah.

The good news for Isaiah and for us is that God's word will stand forever. Isaiah had to know that God's messages may fall on deaf ears, but that it would one day accomplish God's mission.

God Feeds His Flock [Isaiah 40:9-10]

God cares for you and me. Nothing is sure in life except that God does care. God feeds us daily with bread for life. Through the gift of his Son he has given us the bread of life. Like a good shepherd God lovingly feeds and cares for his people

How ironic that the Savior's birth was first announced to common shepherds. The news came not to Herod or to Ceasar on his throne in mighty Rome, but to shepherds. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10).

Like shepherds who tend their flock agains the wolves and hunger, God protects and provides for his people. The greatest evidence of his care is the gift of Christ his Son.

This column marks the beginning of my sixth year of writing for the **Times-Virginian**, its readers. Thank you for your support and encouragement. WLT.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLTP)

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Times-Virginian

WORSHIP

THE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH will present a Christmas play Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Pictured here are front row, Anna Cuccio, Hannah Jones, Betsy Wilson, Meg Seiler, Kelley Midgett, Ryan Coffman, Teresa Seay, Rachel Lawson, Ashley Lawson, Christopher Midgett, and Kevin Holt. Back row, Bill Thomas, John Fedison, Sheila Webb, Martha Haley, Brett Herncall, David Midgett, Ben Harvey, Mary Anna Hudson and Tom Bowman. Mrs. Lucy Harvey is directing the play. The public is invited to attend.

Liberty Baptist plans Christmas cantata

The Christmas Cantata, "A Special Kind of Love," will be presented at Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox this Sunday (Dec. 18) at 7:30 p.m.

The work, written by Dr. John Peterson, will be directed by Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan and orchestrated by Bob Krogstad. Original orchestration for the work was done by the Ron Huff Orchestra.

The prelude will consist of five arrangements. Joy To The World, Hark The Herald Angels Sing will be performed by Gary Youngblood. It Came Upon The Midnight Clear will be performed by Kitty Farris. What Child Is This will be performed by Steve Marshall. Mary's Little Boy Child will be performed by Carole Foxwell. Silent Night will be performed by Mary Ann Hoover, Patricia Chandler, Gloria Richardson, Franklin Vaughan and Sandra Mitchell, pianist.

The benediction will be delivered by Dr. Scott and the postlude, "Prelude in B Flat" will be performed by Joyce Vaughan.

Choir members are as follows: Alto: Phyllis Winters, Joyce Bennett, Nina Beasley, Gloria Richardson and Mary Ann Hoover.

Sopranos - Colette Jamerson, Nancy Hall, Edith McCormick, Lucille Ferrell, Doris Nash, Kitty Farris, Carole Foxwell, Beulah Jamerson, Judy Marshall, Sandra Mitchell, Ann Davis and Polly Carter;

Second Sopranos - Peggy Marshall, Mary Ellen Chandler;

Bass - Franklin Vaughan, Ben Marshall, Gary Youngblood, Vernelle Mitchell, Rand Hall.;

Tenors - Tom Ranson, Joe Vaughan, Steve Marshall and Teddy Mitchell;

Youth and college - Patricia Chandler, David Williams, Lori Wooten, Jane Bennett, Lisa Plunkett, James Beaty, Kristi Mitchell, Joni Canada;

Narrator - Dr. Dan Scott.

The live nativity scene will be directed by Sandra White and Mary Lou Harrison. In the scene will be Lori Ranson as Mary, Darrell Dawson as Joseph, Julie Youngblood as Elizabeth. Wise men will be played by Bobby Swanberg, Robbie Coleman and Jay Stubblefield. Shepherds will be played by John Canada, Brent Harrison, Bob Stratton and Daniel Slagle. Angels will be played by Jennifer White, Roni Ranson, Gina Cestaro, Sheri Williams and Angela Thompson.

The candle lighters for the nativity scene will be Brett Stratton and Ric Scott.

Obituaries

Annie Hamilton Gilbert

Annie Hamilton Gilberty, 81, of Buena Vista, died Dec. 6, 1983, in a Lynchburg hospital. She was the widow of Ezra Eugene Gilbert.

Surviving are two sons, Lyle E. Gilbert, Spout Spring, and Casper A. Gilbert, Middlebrook; four sisters, Mrs. Edna Campbell, Madison Heights, Mrs. Ruth Hite, Shackleford, Mrs. Nell Grant, Staunton, and Mrs. Evelyn Kahl, Fairfield; two brothers, B. M. Hamilton, Harvey, W. Va., and William Hamilton, Lynchburg; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday at Stone Church of the Brethren by the Rev. Harold Bowman. Burial followed in the Greenhill Cemetery.

Lomax Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Mary Catherine Hudson

Mrs. Mary Catherine Hudson, of Route 3, Appomattox, departed this life Thursday in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born in Appomattox County, she was a daughter of Mrs. Elnora Kinney and the late George W. Scruggs. She was a member of Canaan Baptist Church.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, Eutha Edward Hudson, Sr.; two sons, Eutha Edward Hudson Jr. and John Thomas Hudson; both of Appomattox County; one daughter, Mrs. Mary H. Randolph, of Appomattox; three sisters, Mrs. Sabra S. Ferguson, Lynchburg, Mrs. Ora S. McCoy, Appomattox, and Mrs. Georgia S. Jones, Madison Heights; one brother, the Rev. John Scruggs, Appomattox; three grandchildren, Mrs. Nicole Randolph, Nakina Hudson and John Thomas Hudson, Jr., all of Appomattox, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 1 p.m. from Canaan Baptist Church, Appomattox, the Rev. Curtis L. Elliott officiated. Interment was in the family cemetery.

Community Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

John Henry Jones

John Henry Jones, age 102, of Charlotte Court House, died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1983.

He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Dean J. Osborne, Mrs. Maurce J. Paulson and Mrs. Catherine J. Martin; two sisters, Mary J. Vaughan and Mrs. Ruth J. Allen; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in Evergreen Cemetery in Charlotte Court House.

Browning Funeral Home, Keysville, was in charge of arrangements.

Shirley Harvey Martin

Shirley Harvey Martin, 61, of Route 1, Appomattox, wife of Fred H. Martin, Sr., died at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1983, at her residence.

Born in Appomattox County, she was a daughter of the late Royal Peniek Harvey and Burdia Agnes Wooldridge Harvey. Her foster parents were the late Walter W. (Moody) Wooldridge and Elvira Frances Wooldridge. She was a member of Evergreen Baptist Church and was owner and operator of Martin Wooldridge Home for the Aged.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Fred H. Martin, Jr., Lufkin, Tex.; a daughter, Mrs. C. B. (Juanita) Rickmond Jr., Appomattox; a daughter-in-law, Nelle H. Martin, Appomattox; four grandchildren, Fred H. (Tray) Martin III and Casey Martin, both of Lufkin, and Heath Rickmond and Stefanie Martin, both of Appomattox; two half brothers, Thomas E. Harvey, Chesterfield, and Daniel P. Harvey, Evergreen, and a half sister, Mrs. Irma H. Jenkins, Chesterfield.

Funeral services were held Friday at 2 p.m. in Robinson Funeral Home, with burial in Liberty Cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Hattie Pribble Mason

Mrs. Hattie Pribble Mason, 76, of 804 Frazier Road, Altavista, died Thursday at Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Born in Campbell County Dec. 8, 1907, she was the daughter of the late Walter H. Pribble and Pemelia Phillips Pribble. She was a member of Salem United Methodist Church and also attended Clement Memorial Wesleyan Church. She was retired from Burlington Industries and was the widow of Eugene T. Mason.

She is survived by four sons, Eugene A. Mason, James E. Mason, Roy L. Mason and Charlie R. Mason, all of Altavista; three daughters, Mrs. Ruby Austin, Huddleston, and Mrs. Margaret McDaniel and Mrs. Marion Swain, both of Altavista; three brothers, Emmett Pribble, Concord, Claude Pribble, Lynchburg, and Walter Pribble of Columbus, Ohio; a sister, Mrs. Nellie Noel, Concord; nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

A funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Arthur Yeager and the Rev. Paul D. Marlowe Jr. at Clement Memorial Wesleyan Church at 11 a.m. Saturday. Interment was in the Salem United Methodist Church cemetery.

Finch & Finch Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Miss Marie Robertson

Miss Marie Robertson, formerly of Appomattox County, departed this life Monday in New York City.

She was the daughter of the late William Henry Robertson and Mrs. Betty Johnson Robertson.

She is survived by five brothers, Manuel Robertson and Ernest Robertson, both of Glen Jean, W. Va., Samuel Robertson of Charleston, W. Va., and Wilbur Robertson and Charles Robertson, both of Baltimore, Md.; two sisters, Mrs. Roberta McCuff of Deer Park, N.Y., and Mrs. Elizabeth Sylvester of The Bronx, N.Y.; other relatives and friends.

A funeral service was conducted Saturday at 1 p.m. from Springfield Baptist Church, Appomattox County, the Rev. Harrison Kelso officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Community Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Church Calendar

'New Nativity'

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

"The New Nativity," a choral celebration of the meaning of Christmas, will be presented by the Appomattox Courthouse Presbyterian Church choir at 5 p.m. at the church. A covered-dish supper will follow the cantata in the church fellowship hall.

Special' event set

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

Christmas Cantata, "A Special Kind of Love," at 7:30 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church.

'Angel's Song'

MONDAY, DEC. 19

The Evergreen United Methodist Church Choir will present a Christmas Cantata titled "Angel's Song," by John Innes and Don Kruegar at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

'Two Nights' set

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

The Evergreen Baptist Church Junior Choir will present a Christmas Cantata, "Two Nights Before Christmas" at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Christmas Gift Ideas

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The South 40

Prepare now for weeds

By JAMES H. SMITH

This is an important time of the year to insure that there are no weeds in the strawberries next spring. Generally there are two times to treat berry fields for weeds. First is immediately following final harvest and second is before the soil freezes.

Use Devrinol at 4 to 8 pounds per acre or 2 to 3 ounces per 1000 square feet. If winter annual broadleaf weeds are present and less than one inch tall apply 6 to 8 pounds of Tenoran per acre or 2½ to 3 ounces per 1,000/square feet. Devrinol needs to be watered in or covered with a mulch immediately after application.

• • •

Fred Jones raised a sizable fall garden with emphasis on broccoli. He pointed out that with proper fertilization, irrigation and insect control a good crop was produced. One of the heads of broccoli, he showed me, weighed just over a pound and measured nine inches across.

The trial planting of broccoli in Halifax County this fall appears to have been a big success, both in production and marketing.

• • •

John Harrison has been elected Director of Lynchburg Feeder Cattle Association. W. E. Bondurant, Jr. has served the organization well for a number of years.

"Open House" at the Red House Bull Evaluation Center is December 28, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In order to plan the Bull Burger lunch we need to know how many plan to attend by December 15.

• • •

Dark tobacco looked better at the market than many people thought. It is a "short crop" in weight and length of leaf. First week sales saw about 3% of the offering moving into the pool.

• • •

The Virginia flue tobacco market closed selling 73.1 million pounds for an average of $171.70 per CWT.

This is 20 million pounds under 1982 and $9 less per CWT.

• • •

A consumer product alert has been issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission concerning two products: Pressure Washers -- these are devices that are hooked up to a plumbing connection. They warn of fatal electric shock if power cord conneciton becomes wet or an internal short exists. At least eight fatalities have been reported. Always use a three wire ground.

The other product is cordless telephone. While they offer convience, users are cautioned to always place the phone in the talk position before moving the telephone to the ear. The person may be exposed to a loud, possibly painful ring. More than 20 complaints have been received since last December.

CPSC advises owners to be sure that all users become familiar with proper operation.

• • •

For 1983 Dairy Herd Improvement members in Virginia averaged 15,296 pounds of milk per cow, the Lynchburg DHIA averaged 15,283, and Appomattox Dairymen averaged 14,227 pounds per milk and 504 pounds of fat.

• • •

There will be several varieties of Tall Fescue offered for sale in 1984 that will indicate they are free of Endophyte fungus. While this is good and is a factor we need to consider, don't let it be the "over riding" factor! The variety may not be cold tolerant or it may be susceptable to other forage diseases.

I have an abreviated review of 19 varieties if you are interested.

Hours announced

The Appomattox Post Office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and closed on Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

Letter

Dear Santa

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Santa Claus, with a copy forwarded to the Times-Virginian for publication. It comes from Cheryl Bonney, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H.G. Bonney of Appomattox, who has been in Australia since July.

Dear Santa,

Maybe you are already familiar with this place in the southernhemisphere. If not, let me say you may need to alter your plans. You see, here, Christmas comes 16 hours before it comes to Appomattox. Can you make it 12,000 miles in that time?

I've heard rumors that you hitch a team of (Kanga) "roos" to your sleigh here. Are they as graceful as Rudolph and his friends? And another thing, Santa, it has never snowed here on Christmas day - it's far too hot!

I've been here, away from home, since last July and I'm ready to come home now. There really is no place like home for the holidays...

Thanks for listening, Santa

Cheryl

P.S. Can gum leaves and nuts take the place of mistletoe?

Bennett attends SS meeting

Roy T. Bennett of Concord, Virginia represented Southern States Cooperative's members at the association's 60th annual stockholders meeting held in Richmond, VA, Nov. 16-17.

Attending the session also was Ronald Coleman of Appomattox, Virginia representing the local Southern States retail dealership.

They heard Executive Vice President and General Manager Gene A. James report that dollar volume for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1983 fell 6.2 percent to $642,259,000. This was due to the impact of recession on the farm, the Payment-In-Kind(PIK) acreage reduction program and the adverse planting season weather.

"The PIK program coupled with the extreme drought and searing heat this summer -- apparently will go far in reducing surpluses," James says, "and restoring a degree of economic stability to the grain sector of American agriculture. We believe the PIK program is a " 'plus' " for the future, even though its short-term effect is partially responsible for the sales and earnings decline of Southern States in the year just ended."

James told the session that net earnings (before taxes) dropped from $11 million in the previous fiscal year to just under $4 million this past year.

Fertilizer volume fell due to the depressed farm economy, adverse weather conditions during much of the spring and reduced acreage in crops. Sales totaled 651,000 tons compared with 719,000 tons for 1981-82.

Petroleum sales volume totaled $175,271,000, down from $190,363,000 the year before. Gallonage decreased from 200,665,000 to 197,332,000 this past year.

Seed volume was down slightly from $23,376,000 the previous year to $22,926,000.

Total farm supply volume was up from $103,970,000 the previous year to $110,139,000.

Feed tonnage was down from 530,000 tons the previous year to 477,000 tons.

Market opens

THE 1983 FIRE CURED TOBACCO Market opened Tuesday in Farmville. Clarence Jones, Junior Franklin and Johnny T. Hunter look over some of the new crop. Farmville sold 159,122 pounds for a $129.98 average. 5,295 pounds or 3 percent went into the pool.

Anderson receives award

Appomattox County Farm Bureau president Ed Anderson recently received the 1983 membership award from Virginia Farm Bureau President S. T. Moore, Jr., of South Hill.

Appomattox County also received three diamonds attached to the award, symbolic of outstanding performance in two areas other than membership growth. The extra awards were for women, structures and procedures.

A total of eight categories are judged and three counties received recognition in all eight. Pittsylvania County was given the "superior county" award. Other counties receiving eight diamonds included Shenandoah and Prince Edward.

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